

# IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

**News You Can Use**

**No. 25 Winter 2003**

***A better mousetrap?  
No, but for a better way to plant trees,  
read 'Coordinator's Comments.'***

## **Coordinator's Comments**

The days are growing longer and our thoughts are turning toward spring planting. Planting a tree is the most critical and important time in its life – once done, the tree cannot correct how or where it was planted. Be sure you plant correctly. Most of us are aware that the planting holes need to be wide to encourage root growth outside the soil ball. However, most trees are still being planted too deeply, leading to girdling roots, stem decay and increased structural failure in later years. Planting at the same depth as in the nursery – something we have heard for decades – can even be too deep. The better approach is to find the point at which the trunk begins flaring out to roots – the root collar – and plant so that this point is at or slightly above grade. Note that it is not uncommon to find the root collar three to ten inches deep in the ball that comes from the nursery! For accurate planting specifications, visit our website at <http://www2.state.id.us/lands/bureau/community%20forestry/>.

Congratulations to the 26 recipients of 2002-03 Community Forestry or Commu-

nity Transportation Enhancement grants. These projects were chosen by the grant review committee as the best out of 48 submitted. A number of the projects featured planting of educational arboreta and the development of community tree inventories. Completing a tree inventory is a good first step to determining the resource needs of your community and developing a plan of action for addressing these needs. It demonstrates that a community is interested in growing a program, not simply completing a one-time project.

As I write this column, Tree City USA recertifications and new applications are pretty much in. We should have close to 60 Tree City USA's this year, keeping Idaho near the top in the percentage of its communities so designated. It's great to see the continued growth of this program in Idaho.

Though your New Year's resolutions may already have been made, I encourage you to add one more. If you are not involved in your community's tree care efforts, become involved. Trees represent one of the most valuable resources in your  
*(continued on page 2)*



Debbie Cook

*Molly Schneider, a member of the Boise Tree Stewards, helps plant our state tree at Capitol Park in honor of the National Tree Trust's 10 millionth tree.*

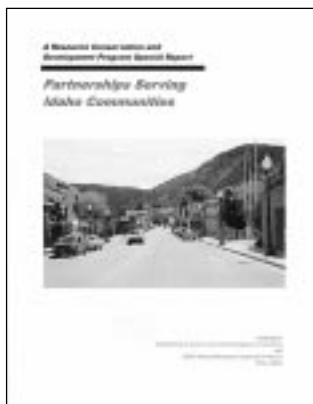
## **10 MILLION TREES & PLANTING**

Twelve years ago, the National Tree Trust was created by Congress as a program to plant trees across the country on public property. On November 21 of last fall, this Washington-based organization celebrated planting its 10 millionth tree. This was a nationwide event with the state tree being planted in each of the 50 state capitals. Idaho did its part by planting a western white pine at Capitol Park in Boise. The weather was spring-like with a temperature of 60 degrees under a clear blue sky. Winston Wiggins, Director of the Idaho Department of Lands, presented a talk about the importance of trees in our urban environment. The Boise Tree Stewards, a group of trained volunteers who help Boise's Community Forestry Unit plant and care for city trees, were also on hand to help out. Debbie Cook, Community Forestry Assistant for southwest Idaho helped with coordination of the event.

Debbie says of the occasion, "We were happy to be a part of helping to celebrate the progress made by the National Tree Trust and especially to plant the first of it's next 10 million trees!" For more information about how the Trust can help your community obtain low-cost trees, visit [www.nationaltreetrust.org](http://www.nationaltreetrust.org).

## RC&D Booklets Available

A special report has been issued by the Resource Conservation and Development Association that details its many local partnerships throughout Idaho. RC&D works with the Idaho Department of Lands in helping to bring community forestry assistance to many parts of the state. For a free copy of the 26-page report, contact the RC&D office nearest you or any of our community forestry assistants (See masthead).



*(Comments continued from pg. 1)*

community. Properly managed, they are one of the few components of infrastructure that appreciate in value over time AND provide many environmental, economic and social benefits. Your involvement will make your community a better place to live.

— David Stephenson  
*Community Forestry  
Coordinator*

### Check the Web

There are zillions of Web sites to help with any need or interest related to trees and community forestry. As starting points, we recommend the following two. The first is Idaho's own community forestry site, complete with grant information, people who can provide assistance, Arbor Day planning information and much more. The other is the best portal to national information about community forestry. Both sites update information regularly, so why not bookmark these and visit often:

[www2.state.id.us/lands/bureau/  
community%20forestry/index.htm](http://www2.state.id.us/lands/bureau/community%20forestry/index.htm)  
[www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)

## A Youth Program Success Story

If numbers are any indication, a pilot project that is testing a Junior Master Gardener program is headed for success. When Kevin Laughlin and Tim Davis, county extension educators in Boise and Payette, respectively, put out feelers for this new program in the Treasure Valley, they anticipated a response from about 5 potential adult leaders and perhaps 25 youngsters. Instead, 20 adults and 650 kids responded!

Now in the second year of the pilot phase, the program may well spread to other parts of Idaho. It is modeled after Master Gardeners, but is for children in grades 3 – 8. There is also a 6-week certification course for adult leaders. Topics in the program include: plant growth and development, soils and water, ecology, insects and diseases of fruit and nut trees, landscape horticulture, vegetables and herbs, and life skills and career exploration.

For more information, contact Kevin Laughlin at 208/377-2107 or email to: [Laughlin@uidaho.edu](mailto:Laughlin@uidaho.edu).

## Meridian Adds Tree Ordinance

"An ordinance could have saved some of the older-growth forest. It's to help us create a forest that has some continuity." Those were comments by Elroy Huff, Meridian's parks superintendent and arborist, as reported by Associated Press. Meridian has lost many of its street trees and a new ordinance passed recently by city council is intended to put a stop to it.

The ordinance requires homeowners to apply for a permit before removing any tree growing in the city right of way. The city arborist will then inspect the tree and issue a free permit if there is good reason for the tree's removal. If permission is denied, the homeowner can appeal to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

For information about creating or strengthening a tree or landscape ordinance in your community, contact the community forestry assistant in your area. See the masthead box for contact information.

## Arbor Day Grants Available

The three investor-owned utilities operating in Idaho have pitched in to again make \$150 grants available to help communities celebrate Arbor Day. Idaho Power, Avista and Utah Power have contributed to the Idaho Community Forestry Trust Account, from which the grants will be drawn.

Notices are being mailed to all cities, but if you did not receive one, contact the IDL Community Forestry right away or visit Department of Lands' Web site. Applications are due in Coeur d'Alene March 19. A drawing will be held March 20 and winners announced the week of March 24. A 35% match is required, but this can include in-kind contributions.

## IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

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For address changes, program assistance or additional information, contact, Community Forestry Coordinator, Idaho Dept. of Lands, 3780 Industrial Ave. South, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815; 1-800-IDAHO4U = 1-800-432-4648 or 208/666-8621; fax 208/769-1524; email [communitytrees@idl.state.id.us](mailto:communitytrees@idl.state.id.us).

### Field Offices

**North Idaho:** Sue Izard, C. F. Ass't., Clearwater RC&D Council, P.O. Box 9576 (Federal Bldg.), Moscow, ID 83843. Ph. 208/882-4960 ext. 4.

**Southwest Idaho:** Debbie Cook, C. F. Ass't., 120 Eastway Dr., Boise, ID 83702. Ph. 208/385-7197.

**Southeast Idaho:** Gerry Bates, C. F. Ass't., 2445 John Adams Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. Ph. 208/522-5964.

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# 2002 – 2003 Grant Award Summary

The Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program received 48 grant applications last fall from 31 different Idaho cities requesting \$301,950 in funding support. This is up from 47 requests the previous year seeking \$228,339. \$140,000 in funds were available this year to assist with the requests. Successful applicants are listed below:

## *Tree Planting & Care*

- Aberdeen (\$1,030) New trees in park and replacements for 5 destroyed by 4WD vehicles.
- Ammon (\$1,500) Trees for a new park development, including educational labels.
- Bellevue (\$1,500) Pruning and hazard reduction in city park.
- Caldwell (\$436) Trees for a new arboretum by walkway and under power lines.
- Chubbuck (\$1,480) Trees for park development and arboretum showcasing locally acceptable species.
- Iona (\$1,500) Trees for two park renovations.
- Pocatello (\$1,500) Moving 10 trees from closed factory to city park.
- Post Falls (\$1,500) Trees for a barren linear park along a gas pipeline.
- Salmon (\$1,500) Removal or corrective pruning of 7 hazard trees in busy thoroughfare.
- Sandpoint (\$1,500) Removal or corrective pruning of hazardous street trees.
- Soda Springs (\$1,500) Trees to begin planting in a barren park.

## *Program Development*

- Ammon (\$4,000) Computer, inventory program and educational tree labels.
- Ashton (\$1,542) Conference attendance for community forester who will train others.
- Bellevue (\$3,660) Summer intern to conduct inventory.
- Menan (\$4,000) Computer, inventory program and assistance with inventory.
- Post Falls (\$3,900) Summer intern to update and expand street tree inventory.
- Salmon (\$4,000) Intern for street tree inventory leading to a management plan.
- Sugar City (\$3,952) Summer intern to assist city forester; also to purchase mulch and rent a sod cutter.

## *Community Transportation Enhancement*

- Bellevue (\$12,000) Beautification of gateway to city and screening of pump station and highway.

# Calendar

## March 11-13

**Trees & Utilities National Conference**, Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska. (Contact The National Arbor Day Foundation at (402) 474-5655, or e-mail [conferences@arborday.org](mailto:conferences@arborday.org))

## March 13-14

**Tools and Techniques to Manage the Urban Forest**, University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture, Seattle, Washington. (Contact Jean Robins at 206-685-8033 or visit the Symposium web-site at [www.depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/tootufweb/homepage.htm](http://www.depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/tootufweb/homepage.htm))

## March 19

### Deadline for Arbor Day Grant Applications

## May 5-7

**Urban Wildlife National Conference**, Arbor Day Farm/Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska. (See above for contact information)

## September 17-20

**National Urban Forest Conference**, Adams Mark Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. (Contact Donna Tschiffely, American Forests at 703-904-6932 or [www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/conference](http://www.americanforests.org/graytogreen/conference))

## Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

February 22, 2003, Walla Walla, WA - morning exam

April 12, 2003, Spokane, WA - afternoon exam

June 7, 2003, Twin Falls, ID - morning exam

August 5, 2003, Bend, OR - afternoon exam

September 27, 2003, Pocatello, ID - morning exam

For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: [info@pnwisa.org](mailto:info@pnwisa.org).

- Filer (\$13,775) Row of trees and irrigation next to park along Hwy 30, a scenic byway.
- Menan (\$15,000) Trees, benches and other features along main corridor through town.
- Orofino (\$14,932) Continuation of central business district tree planting.
- Payette (\$15,000) Multi-purpose tree planting in barren park next to main highway.
- Rupert (\$12,820) Stabilize and reduce blowing soil and beautify entrance to city.
- Shelley (\$1,473) Planting of 93 trees along currently-barren walking path.
- Additional city (\$15,000) not currently finalized.



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# Tree tip



## THINK BIG \*

Recent studies by the USDA Forest Service's Center for Urban Forestry Research (Davis, CA) have calculated the costs and benefits of street and yard trees over a 40-year span. Costs include planting, pruning, removal, etc.; benefits include energy savings, rain runoff retention, air pollution control and others.

*Results:* Average annual net benefits per tree increased with mature tree size.

\$ -1 to \$11 for a small tree

\$7 to \$20 for medium shade tree or large conifer

\$20 to \$33 for a large shade tree

Watch for details and how to do this study in your community in *Northern Mountain and Prairie Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting*, scheduled for release later this year.

\*Except under power lines, of course!